

## Siniora fears influx of Soviets

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A leading Palestinian said Sunday he feared there would be an influx of Soviet Jews into the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. "We have no business telling the Soviet Union not to allow Jews to emigrate, but we must make it clear that we object to settling them in the occupied territories," Haim Siniora, editor of Al Fajr newspaper, told a seminar on terrorism and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Former Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky, now an Israeli, said last week that half a million Soviet Jews were waiting to emigrate to Israel. Israeli officials say 2,000 arrived last month and the rate will rise. One right-wing minister has urged them to settle in the occupied territories. Palestinian nationalists at the seminar in Arab Jerusalem said political changes in Eastern Europe were a victory for democracy and could help to promote Middle East peace. But they said they were concerned at an improvement in the such as cultural relations between Israel and the East Bloc, which has long supported the Palestinian cause.

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## JWA holds meeting today

AMMAN (I.T.) — The Jordan Writers Association (JWA) announced Sunday that it would hold a meeting Monday at a temporary office situated at the Professional Unions Building near the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Saltoun. Rader Abdol Hafiz, the JWA's secretary for culture, announced and press relations, told the Jordan Times that the meeting, which will be held at 5 p.m., will "mark the beginning of the reactivated association and pave the way for fresh elections for a new administrative committee by a few months' time." He said the meeting is expected to be attended by over 250 people, including members of the general assembly of the association and office bearers and members of other professional associations as well as others interested in the literary movement in Jordan. Earlier Sunday, the association sent a message of thanks to Prime Minister Muader Badran for revoking a 1987 decision which dissolved the association (see page 3).

## Palestinian shot dead amid calls for strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Masked men shot to death a 60-year-old Palestinian Sunday in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus, strewing government permit forms over his body and accusing him of collaborating with Israel, reporters said.

It was the second shooting death in the city's casbah (old market) since the army tried to assert control over the neighbourhood of narrow, twisting alleys by killing four members of the radical Black Panthers gang in a raid Dec. 1.

Also Sunday, the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas declared a general strike on Christmas day in a new leaflet calling for stepping up the two-year Palestinian uprising with attacks on Israeli troops.

"We call on our masses to use firebombs and ambush the occupation's army," said the leaflet.

Last week, the leaders of the uprising called for marches on Dec. 25 to protest Israel's occupation, but not for a strike.

The Hamas leaflet also denied Israeli news reports that the group agreed to participate in a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue urged by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. It said the reports were spread by "Zionist news agencies."

Israeli cabinet secretary Elikakim Rubinstein left Sunday for Washington, meanwhile, to hold meetings with U.S. officials about the proposed Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo.

In Nablus, masked youths fatally shot Khaled Barahmeh in the forehead, then took government permit forms he was carrying and scattered them over his body, reporters said.

Barahmeh, from the nearby vil-

lage of Tabea, was accused of being a middleman for Palestinians seeking Israeli permits for business dealings or to travel abroad, the reporters said.

Last Thursday, masked youths killed a 30-year-old man in the casbah in the first slaying of an alleged collaborator since the army's attack on the Black Panthers gang.

Supporters of the Palestine Communist Party and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) chanted slogans eulogizing Aiman Al Razeh, head of the PFLP-affiliated "Red Eagles," who was killed in an army raid Nov. 9.

They also landed Imad Al Nasr, leader of the Black Panthers, who was killed by soldiers Dec. 1.

Also Sunday, about 200 women marched through the casbah waving Palestinian flags and shouting "Long live Palestine," reporters said. They said that when the women tried to leave the market, soldiers dispersed them.

The indictment said Kahane

told a crowd of about 400 people in a Jerusalem park July 7 that Jews who objected to calls for revenge were accomplices in killing the bus passengers.

"Who killed them? The Arabs among us. They are a spreading cancer. Any Jew who says (revenge)... is immoral has the blood of innocents on his hands and is a partner to murder," it quoted the American-born Kahane as saying.

A 14-year-old also was shot in the right foot in the same incident, which began with young soldiers stoning soldiers in Gaza City's Tufa quarter, reporters said.

Two other boys, one a six-year-old, were shot in a clash with soldiers in Gaza's Jabaliya refugee camp, reporters and hospital officials said.

Near Jenin in the West Bank, 25-year-old Omar Jarar died when a bomb he was preparing exploded in his hands, Israeli and Palestinian sources said.

Jarar's family home was blown up by Israeli troops in 1973 after his brother was arrested for

alleged anti-Israel activity, Palestinians said.

Nablus residents said more than 100 students marched through the casbah to the city centre to mark 40 days of mourning for the leader of a Palestinian squad shot dead by Israeli troops.

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## Iraq ready to swap ailing PoWs

**BAGHDAD** (Agencies) — A senior official said Sunday Iraq is willing to exchange all ailing and disabled prisoners of war with Iran, ending as year-old impasse.

But the fate of nearly 100,000 captives held by both sides remained deadlocked. Some have been prisoners since the early days of the Gulf war that broke out in September 1980.

Akram Al Witri, chief of the Legal Department in Iraq's Foreign Ministry, said Iraq's response to a proposal by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to exchange all ailing and wounded prisoners was "positive".

But Witri, the chief Iraqi negotiator with the Red Cross, said he will give Baghdad's official answer soon.

He noted that Iraq has no objection to repatriating all sick and wounded prisoners it captured during the eight-year Gulf war if Iran does the same.

Witri spoke after meeting Saturday with Angelo Guadagno, the ICRC's Middle East chief, who is visiting Baghdad to finalise the plan.

Iraq's foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, said Friday that Tehran will soon free wounded and ailing Iraqi prisoners un-

ilaterally in hopes that Baghdad would reciprocate.

He did not say how many captives would be released or when, but his offer raised hopes that it might open the door to an exchange of a larger scale.

It was not clear if an exchange of ailing captives would signal movement on peace talks that have been deadlocked since April.

Iraq has refused to discuss a complete exchange of PoWs until Iraq withdraws its forces from border territory they seized in the final phase of the Gulf war fighting before a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire took effect Aug. 20, 1988.

Iraq wants all prisoners of war to be repatriated before it will discuss other issues in the U.N. Security Council's ceasefire resolution.

Witri stressed Sunday that Iraq still demands the immediate release of all prisoners of war taken by the two countries.

The Red Cross has registered some 50,000 prisoners held by Iraq and more than 19,000 in

Iraqi camps. But United Nations officials and diplomats estimate the two sides hold around 100,000 PoWs between them.

Gnädinger, who arrived in Baghdad Thursday after visiting Tehran, declined comment on his talks with Iraqi officials.

He was expected to meet Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz later Sunday to discuss the PoWs issue.

The Red Cross secured an agreement by Baghdad and Tehran to repatriate ailing prisoners following the ceasefire.

But the agreement collapsed in November 1988 after only 400 men had been exchanged, with both sides accusing each other of falsifying the number of captives who were seeking asylum.

The stalemate in the PoW issue has been a factor in the deadlock peace talks that began five days after the ceasefire took effect.

Iraq has demanded Iran observe article 118 of the Third Geneva Convention, which both countries signed and which requires that all PoWs be freed as soon as hostilities cease.

Iraq also insists that the PoW issue should be treated as a humanitarian matter and not linked to the outcome of the peace talks.

The Red Cross is trying to

convince both sides to uncouple the PoWs issue from the political negotiations, which some officials fear could take years to reach a settlement, if ever.

Meanwhile Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati accused Iraq Sunday of blocking U.N.-sponsored peace talks in the hope of territorial concessions.

"The Iraqi regime, by hindering the process of the peace talks, was after getting concessions from Iran but the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to firmly resist any Iraqi ambition," he told the Iranian News Agency (IRNA).

Velayati was speaking in Tehran on his return from talks in New York with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cesar.

Aziz said Thursday Iran had a "selective, opportunistic" attitude to ceasefire terms.

Aziz and Velayati held separate unsuccessful talks with Perez de Cesar last week to try to replace the August 1988 Gulf war ceasefire with a definitive settlement.

Velayati said the United Nations had rejected an Iraqi proposal for the establishment of expert committees to work out a permanent settlement.

## GCC summit faces major unsolved problems

**MUSCAT** (R) — Leaders of six Gulf Arab states start their tenth summit this week looking forward to the challenge of the 1990s but dogged by unsolved disputes from this decade.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was founded in 1981, the year after Iran and Iraq went to war. A U.N.-sponsored ceasefire ended fighting in August 1988 but failed to bring lasting peace to the region which have made almost no progress.

GCC Secretary General Abdallah Bishara, quoted by the Oman News Agency Saturday, called the "no peace, no war" situation unsatisfactory both for the region and the world.

Bishara said the issue would be a major topic. Iranian political sources said Tehran feared the GCC would lean in favour of Baghdad. But Arab political analysts said the summit would probably take an even-handed position.

Bishara said the summit would be particularly important because of its timing at the turn of the decade. He said it would be one of reassessment and determination, describing the 1990s as a decade of new challenges for the six-nation group.

Leaders of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman, expected to start meeting Mon-

day, will also grapple with Lebanon and the Palestinian uprising.

Saudi Arabia played a key role in Arab League efforts for a political solution to Lebanon's 15-year civil war. Rene Muawad, elected president as part of a peace accord, was assassinated in November and his successor Elias Hrawi is locked in dispute with defiant army General Michel Aoun.

The Palestinian uprising against Israel in the occupied territories dragged into its third year this month. The GCC is expected to reassert support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the Palestinians' sole representative, a position Israel fiercely rejects.

GCC states are also facing unaccustomed political change on their doorstep. In the remote south of the Arabian peninsula, North and South Yemen are emerging from isolation and planning a unified state.

North Yemen has also joined Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq in the Arab Cooperation Council, a new economic grouping which has assured the GCC that it has no political ambitions.

Bishara said the six leaders were determined to promote common interests and ties between their nations through new economic and trade agreement and joint companies.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

### Sudan hangs black-marketeer

**KHARTOUM** (R) — A Sudanese businessman was hanged Sunday for illegally possessing foreign currency in the first reported execution under the junta which seized power in June. Magdy Mahgoub was executed at Khartoum's Kobar Prison in defiance of a strongly-worded appeal from the United States seeking reprieves for people sentenced to death by military courts. A doctor accused of leading a strike by colleagues is also under sentence of death along with other currency offenders and an Egyptian convicted of possessing heroin. A senior government official said junta leader General Omar Hassan Al Bashir had confirmed the sentence on the Egyptian, Said Ahmad Gaballah. Bashir on Thursday vowed to strike with an iron fist against people he said were trying to sabotage the economy. United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cesar has urged Bashir to reprove the doctor.

### Israeli airman held by Iranians

**TEL AVIV** (AP) — The wife of an Israeli airman captured three years ago in Lebanon said Sunday she has been told he was still alive and held by Iranians. Tami Arad, spoke in interviews with Israeli Radio stations from Paris, where she was attending a conference on human rights in Arab countries in hopes of sending a message to her husband, Ron, whom she has not heard from in two years. Arad, an air navigator, was shot down with an F-4 Phantom fighter jet during an Israeli bombing mission in southern Lebanon on Oct. 16, 1986. The pilot of the plane was rescued by Israeli troops. At the time Arad was said to be in the hands of the Shi'ite Muslim Amal faction, but later he was reported being held by an Iranian-backed breakaway of Amal. There are about 2,600 Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Lebanon, around Baalbek in the east and in Beirut's southern suburbs.

### Driver foils attempt on Syrian diplomat

**BRUSSELS** (R) — A senior Syrian diplomat in Brussels has escaped injury when a sharp-eyed embassy chauffeur noticed two grenades fixed under his car and raised the alarm. Belgium's national news agency Belga said an anonymous caller claimed responsibility for the failed car bomb attack in the name of "the Survivors of Hama," a group apparently linked to Syria's fundamentalist Muslim brothers. Syria's ambassador to Belgium, Siba Nasser, named the diplomat as First Secretary Anwar Al Fadel, 40, who is in charge of consular affairs at the Brussels embassy. She told Reuters the chauffeur was driving past by chance, spotted the car parked on a busy street where Al Fadel had stopped to do some shopping and noticed the grenades attached under the driver's seat. A police spokesman said the grenades were fitted so their pins would drop out with the motion of the car. One was on the verge of exploding when police defused the devices, he said.

### Tunisian parties hold talks

**TUNIS** (R) — The leaders of three Tunisian opposition parties have held formal talks that could be the first step towards a left-of-centre alliance. The secretaries general of the Movement of Socialist Democrats (MDS), Tunisian Communist Party and Popular Unity Movement (MUP) met Friday and called for a "broad democratic and popular movement capable of defending the interests of the country," a joint statement issued Saturday said. The MDS is the largest of Tunisia's six recognised opposition groups.

## Afghan army offensive repulsed, rebels say

**ISLAMABAD**, Pakistan (AP) — U.S.-backed insurgents claimed Sunday that they killed 50 Afghan troops when they repulsed a recent government offensive west of Kabul, the rebels call themselves.

The agency said the government responded with "indiscriminate" bombing and shelling which killed 20 rebels and civilians, including two guerrilla commanders. It said 40 others were wounded, and that the fighting continued.

Such a level of combat in northern Afghanistan is unusual for the onset of winter, when snow blocks mountains passes and generally forces a seasonal halt.

The ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan seized power in a bloody 1978 military coup which sparked the insurgency. Soviet forces ended nine years of direct intervention in the war last Feb. 15 but Moscow continues to back the Kabul government through a massive military airift and overland convoys.

Despite predictions of their early defeat, government forces continue to hold Afghanistan's major cities. The Mujahideen, who receive U.S.-supplied weapons through Pakistan, reportedly control most of the rugged countryside.

Rebels refuse to negotiate peace with the Kabul government, which they consider to be a puppet of Moscow. They have pledged to fight until they topple it, and establish an Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

## Radicals win parliament seats in Iran

**NICOSIA** (AP) — Iran's former interior minister, Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, and other anti-Western radicals have won parliamentary seats in special elections, strengthening hardline opposition to President Hashemi Rafsanjani's liberalisation policy.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, reported late Saturday that Mohtashemi, a middle-ranking cleric, took 225,570 votes in polling Friday and was declared elected to one of the 32 Tehran seats in the Majlis, parliament.

Another hardline cleric, Hojjatolislam Movahedi Kermani, was also elected in Tehran with 287,921 votes, IRNA reported.

Diplomats said the mid-term elections were seen as a test for Rafsanjani's policies.

Sixty-four candidates ran in the poll called to fill nine vacant seats in the 270-member parliament.

Iran's official media reported a heavy turnout, but gave no overall figures.

Most of the seats were left empty when Rafsanjani appointed legislators to his

cabinet following his election July 28.

He had held one of the Tehran seats since 1980 until he resigned from parliament to run for president.

In the last general election in April-May 1988, he polled a record 1.2 million votes.

Tehran Radio said four other candidates, including lesser-known radicals, won seats in provincial centres.

The state radio, also monitored in Nicosia, said that there were no clear-cut winners in two other Tehran districts and the provincial Bandar Turkman constituency so a second round of voting will be held. It did not say when that will be.

The frontrunners for the remaining Tehran seats are all radicals — former Commerce Minister Habibollah Asgarowadi, former Labour Minister Abolassaeen Sarazideh and former Posts and Telegraphs Minister Morteza Navabi.

Mohtashemi's election marked a comeback for the 43-year-old Islamic fundamentalist who has close links with pro-Iranian mili-

tares holding Western hostages in Lebanon.

Rafsanjani, leader of Tehran's so-called pragmatists, dumped Mohtashemi and other hardliners in August, when he formed a cabinet dominated by technocrats designed to revitalise Iran's moribund economy following last year's ceasefire in the eight-year war with Iraq.

Mohtashemi is allied with Ahmad Khomeini, son of the late revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and considered a focal point for the radicals espousing the ayatollah's ideological legacy.

The hardliners oppose Rafsanjani's moves to improve Iran's relations with the West to acquire badly needed investment to crank up the post-war economy.

They contend his policies move too far from the fundamentalist principles that form the bedrock of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Rafsanjani, while no less committed to the revolution than his rivals, believes Iran cannot afford to remain isolated and that its 55 million people have had enough of hardship after a decade of

turmoil and war.

But he needs to avoid a major challenge while he cements his authority and has had to tread softly since his election.

Radicals of various stripes already dominate the Majlis and their gains are likely to further inhibit Rafsanjani's room for manoeuvre between guiding Iran into a more open, prosperous era while preserving Islamic principles.

The Tehran Times daily, which is considered to reflect Rafsanjani's thinking, indicated Sunday that the president may seek a conciliatory line with his radical supporters.

IRNA quoted the newspaper as saying in an editorial that Rafsanjani's election will "only enrich the Majlis debates and assist decision-making."

It castigated the Western media for highlighting political differences in the Tehran hierarchy and said these "in no way keep those who believe in the Islamic Republic and the lofty goals set for this Muslim society from fully cooperating with one another."

Asked if East Germany would

## Modrow: East Germany wants ties with Israel

**TEL AVIV** (R) — East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow was quoted Sunday as saying his government had asked to establish relations with Israel for the first time.

Modrow said it had yet to receive the request, reported by the newspaper Haaretz, but would take it seriously if East Germany shared responsibility for the Nazi extermination of six million Jews in the holocaust of World War II.

Modrow told Haaretz in an interview: "We asked Israel officially to consider establishing diplomatic ties. My government is interested in these relations and I hope the answer from Israel will be positive."

Official Israeli sources told Reuters that, once Israel received the request, it would insist that East Germany announced its readiness to pay reparations, as did West Germany, to families of holocaust victims and survivors.

Asked if East Germany would

pay compensation, Modrow said: "We are certainly ready to consider the matter with authorised representatives of Jewish organisations involved and with Israel."

"My government is open to the request," he said, "but it is an inseparable part of the matters which we will have to consider."

The Soviet Union under Mikhail Gorbachev and other Soviet Bloc countries have gradually restored some of the ties they severed with Israel over the 1967 Middle East war. East Germany has never had ties with Israel.

East German Communist Party leader Gregor Gysi told Haaretz: "The German past imposes on us a special obligation (towards Israel)."

He added that he had been invited to a Hebrew University forum in March but did not know whether he would attend.

## Chinese president begins Mideast trip

**PEKING** (AP) — Chinese President Yang Shangtian left Sunday for an 11-day trip to the Middle East expected to focus on increasing trade.

Yang, 82, making his first trip abroad since taking office in April 1988, told reporters at the airport that he planned to discuss regional as well as bilateral issues while in Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Oman.

He was accompanied by Finance Minister Wang Bingqian and the vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade, Lu Xueqian, and said they might sign economic agreements during the trip.

Yang said arms sales were not on the agenda. China has sold weapons in the past to Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Syria and Saudi Arabia, and its military has stepped up sales efforts abroad in recent years in order to raise money for weapons development.

Premier Li Peng, Vice President Wang Zhen and other top officials shook hands with Yang before he boarded a special Boeing 707. Then they raised their right arms and waved gently

in unison as the plane rolled away.

The official China Daily newspaper quoted an unidentified trade official as saying that Kuwait is considering exploring for oil in China, and that trade with the United Arab Emirates and Oman has grown this year.

Two-way trade with the four countries totalled \$494.7 million during the first 10 months of the year, the official said — a tiny percentage of China's worldwide trade volume of more than \$78 billion.

Yang, a former general and first vice chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission, is the second senior leader to visit the Middle East in recent months.

Foreign Minister Qian Qichen travelled to Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Iraq in September to discuss regional tensions, but made no peace proposals. That trip was seen largely as an effort by China to break out of its international isolation following the widely condemned June army attack on pro-democracy protesters.

Despite predictions of their early defeat, government forces continue to hold Afghanistan's major cities. The Mujahideen, who receive U.S.-supplied weapons through Pakistan, reportedly control most of the rugged countryside.</p

# National News

## Al Hussein Society holds annual charity bazaar

AMMAN (Petra) — The Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically handicapped held its annual charity bazaar Sunday at the Amman Marriott Hotel under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath.

On display were embroideries, and handicrafts by handicapped students of Al Hussein Centre as well as ceramics, artificial flowers, silver and brassware, leather, perfumes, and various foods and confectionaries prepared by ladies representing foreign embassies in Jordan.

Participating embassies were those of the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Spain, the United States, Turkey, Japan, Sweden, Morocco, Egypt, Greece, South Korea, Iraq, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, the Philippines, Brazil, Tunisia, Indonesia, and Pakistan in addition to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Accompanying Princess Sarvath at the opening ceremony were Princess Majdah Ra'd, the society's president and a group of foreign and Jordanian ladies. The proceeds of the bazaar will benefit the Al Hussein Society which was founded in 1971 to care for orphaned children. In

## Ministry discusses annual pilgrimage

AMMAN (Petra) — A general meeting was held Sunday by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to discuss the question of organizing the annual pilgrimage to Mecca and holy places in Saudi Arabia.

The meeting, which was attended by the Ministry's Secretary General Ahmad Hilayel and senior officials from the ministries of Interior and Transport as well as the Public Security Department, discussed the number of vehicles to be used for transporting the pilgrims, transportation fares and the question of stationing police units at border posts to ensure safe travel.

Also discussed was the question of conducting mechanical

tests on vehicles transporting the pilgrims in Ma'an which lies along the route to Saudi Arabia. The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs organised the annual pilgrimage performed by Jordanian Muslims and those coming from occupied Arab territories.

Arrangements include transportation and from the holy places and accommodation.

The ministry also makes special arrangements for the accommodation of Turkish and Syrian pilgrims upon crossing into Jordanian territory and has set up a pilgrims camp at South Shuneh in the Jordan Valley for the convenience of pilgrims from the occupied Arab lands.

### NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**13 HELD FOR YARMOUK CLASHES:** Irbid Governor Jawdat Al Shoul Sunday said that 13 suspects have been arrested for involvement in the regrettable incident which took place at Yarmouk University last Wednesday. Shoul pointed out that a legal security investigation panel is currently preparing a report on the reasons behind this incident to enable the government to address the causes and to avoid the recurrence of such an incident "which harms the fabrics of our national unity." (Petra)

**EDUCATIONAL ACCORD WITH ARAB STATES:** Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan said Sunday that Jordan's cultural and educational agreements with other Arab countries, drawn up under the previous administration, will remain valid and measures will be taken to strengthen Jordan's educational and cultural ties with the Arab World. Hamdan was speaking at a meeting with cultural attachés at Arab embassies in Amman to whom he also explained Jordan's new educational plan which is to be implemented over the coming ten years in accordance with the resolutions of the first national education conference of 1987. The minister also gave details about the changes in curricula and programmes in Jordanian schools, designed to encourage creativity among the students. (Petra)

**ACC MINISTERS OF LABOUR TO MEET:** Ministers of Labour and Social Security in the four Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) member states meet in Amman Wednesday to review the achievements made since the last two meetings. The ministers will also discuss the working papers prepared by the technical committee, in preparation for signing the minutes of the meeting. (Petra)

**CBI, IDB SIGN AGREEMENT:** The Central Bank of Jordan (CBI) Governor Mohammad Sa'd Al Nabil and president of the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank Ahmad Mohammad Ali Sunday signed an agreement, under which the IDB will finance Jordan's purchases of crude oil from an IDB member-state. The purchases amount to \$15 million. (Petra)

**THE INTIFADA DISH:** The Federation of Jordanian Women Sunday hosted a luncheon, called "the intifada dish" in support for the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. The lunch, organized by the Young Muslim Women's Association and the Rural Development Society, in cooperation with other women organizations to mark the second anniversary of the Palestinian uprising. (Petra)

### WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

#### EXHIBITIONS

\* An exhibition of paintings and etchings inspired by Arabic Islamic art at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

\* An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.

\* A photography exhibition on French poet de Prevert at the French Cultural Centre.

\* The youth art exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

\* Contemporary Islamic fine arts exhibition by Abass Nahla at the Royal Cultural Centre.

\* An exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at the Yarmouk University.

#### THEATRE

\* A play entitled Christmas Carols at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7:30 p.m.

\* A play entitled House Guest at Amman Plaza Hotel — 9:30 p.m.

#### FILM

\* A French film entitled "Les Enfants du Paradis" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.

#### LECTURE CANCELLED

\* Tonight's lecture by Dr. Robert Schick on archaeology at ACOR at 7 p.m. is cancelled.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Sunday opens the annual charity bazaar organised by Al Hussein Society for the Physically Handicapped (Petra photo)

## Taiwanese aide praises Jordan as region's major stabilising force

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The administrative Vice-minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Taiwan Chien-Jen Chen, concluded a three-day visit to Jordan Sunday, describing His Majesty King Hussein as a leader with great wisdom and courage, and Jordan and its people as very impressive.

Chen said the visit, which is part of a tour of Arab countries including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain, offered him a first-hand opportunity to see how Arab countries have developed. Most people are probably not aware of the development and sophistication that exists in the Arab World and particularly in Jordan," he said. "One has to come and see for ones self. I am truly very impressed."

The vice minister, who was recently appointed as head of the Middle Eastern section in Taipei's Foreign Ministry, told the Jordan Times that his mission to the areas was two-fold.

"I am here on an educational tour; I want to see the people and places that I will be dealing with first hand," he said. "I also want to strengthen relations with our friends in this part of the world."

"Taipei and Amman have enjoyed excellent relations ever since His Majesty came to Taiwan in the late 1950s. The Crown Prince subsequently visited us twice. We consider Jordan not only as just a good friend but also a major stabilising force in the region," the minister said.

Chen pointed out that trade relations between Taiwan and Jordan survived the severance in diplomatic relations between the two countries when

Jordan recognised the People's Republic of China. Taiwan ranks number 13 in the world's leading trading nations, Chen pointed out. "We have trade agreements with Jordan worth about \$79 million at this time, but that could be increased easily with help from both sides," he added.

Jordanian imports, mostly of consumer goods such as garments, electronics and plastic products, make up about \$46 million of the total, while the Kingdom mainly exports photos to Taiwan.

Chen said that Taiwan was involved in two industrial ventures in Jordan, both in the garment industry. One of them recently expanded from being a \$3 million venture to a \$10 million business.

Chen also said he would like to see Jordanian businessmen make more of an effort to strengthen trade relations. "I would like to see some Jordanian businessmen at the Taipei import fair (Aug. 23-Sept. 5 1990). They have to become more outgoing. They have to make the personal contacts. They have to be there," he said.

He said that Taipei concentrated its trading efforts on the U.S. market for a long time until three years ago when it shifted its attention to include the European Community (EC) countries and developing stronger trade links with developing countries.

"Among other things, Jordan has something that very few people in our part of the world know about; namely a vast number of very scenic spots which must be explored and developed to the maximum capacity," Chen said.

The minister pointed out

## Princess Basma inaugurates social development centre

TAFILLEH (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday inaugurated an integrated social development centre here and announced that programmes have been prepared to provide local women with skills and training designed to boost their role in socio-economic development.

The new centre is in line with the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) and its strategy which aims to promote economic and social life in the urban and rural regions of Jordan. Princess Basma noted in a speech at the inauguration ceremony.

The new centre will involve active participation of local women in various activities, especially in child care, local and traditional handicrafts and rural development, the Princess added.

Princess Basma, who is the chairperson of QAF's board of trustees, inspected the centre and was briefed on the various sections which include a nursery, a



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday inspects the kindergarten operated by the newly inaugurated social development centre in Tafilleh (Petra photo)

kindergarten, a vocational training centre for women, children's club and library and a unit for agricultural and rural development programmes.

Princess Basma also inspected the bazaar held at the centre, dis-

playing various handicrafts, embroidery knitwear and artificial flowers.

Towards the end of the ceremony she received the Tafilleh Governorate's shield from Governor Khalaf Mahameh.

## Writers thank prime minister for reactivating association

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Sunday received a cable of thanks from the administrative committee of the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA) for his decision to rescind the military governor's order, dissolving the association.

In its cable the committee, voiced satisfaction with and appreciation to Badran's decision, which the committee de-

scribed as commensurate with the current drive towards democracy and general freedom.

JWA is to open its temporary headquarters in Shmeisani Monday in the presence of the association's board and general assembly members.

Last Friday the government announced a reversal of a 1987 decision that banned the association, which the committee de-

The dissolution of JWA in 1987 involved unpublished charges that the association, which had a membership of about 300, served as a forum for political activities.

The government of Zaid Al Rifai established a Jordanian Writers Federation to replace the association which was dissolved by the government of Mudar Badran last Friday.

## Fuheid praises police athletes

AMMAN (Petra) — The police athletics team who took part in an international marathon championship held in Spain in the past week was received Sunday by Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Fadi Fuheid who praised the team's efforts and voiced Jordan's pride in their achievements.

The team, comprising three athletes, did well in the championships, and Ahmad Hamsani won the cap in the face of heavy competition from participants representing 25 nations including six Arab countries.

Fuheid conveyed to the team His Majesty King Hussein's greetings and pledged the PSD's continued support for the sports and athletic endeavours carried out by police teams in Jordan.

The meeting was attended by senior PSD officers.

The meeting came on the eve of the PSD's celebrations of the Arab Police Day which will be organised in Jordan Monday

under the patronage of the PSD director, and attended by former PSD directors and senior officers.

Fuheid and at least one of the retired officers will deliver speeches on the occasion and the PSD director will present awards and medals to a number of veterans in recognition of their services.

**ROYAL DECREE:** A Royal Decree was issued Sunday conferring Jordan's Independence Medal of the First Order on Abdul Fattah Tabbalat, director of the Financial Department at the Royal Hashemite Court. The medal was in recognition of Tabbalat's long standing services at the Royal Court. Another Royal Decree was issued Sunday endorsing the memorandum of understanding between Jordan and Indonesia. The memorandum provides for exchange of legislations and laws on management of Waqf property and exchange of information and publications on Islamic heritage, culture and Hajj affairs. A third Royal Decree was issued, endorsing the regulation on "saving for housing." The regulation gives the citizens the chance to save money for their future houses.

The Housing Corporation will put up housing units in the various parts of the country to enable savers to benefit from them. The regulation also defines the basis for subscription to the new saving for housing scheme. (Petra)

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\* Tonight's lecture by Dr. Robert Schick on archaeology at ACOR at 7 p.m. is cancelled.

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — Seventeen thousand three hundred and forty nine post-graduate and undergraduate students are currently enrolled at the University of Jordan, up from 15,500 in the past academic year, but the increase in number did very little to cover the ever increasing cost of education and training, according to University President Mahmoud Al Samra.

The University of Jordan this year opened its doors for a greater number of students in view of the fact that the majority of them cannot pay for their education abroad, Samra noted in a statement to Sawt Al Shaab Arabic language and history.

But the president complained of the lack of funds for financing post graduate scientific research and higher research programmes daily.

He said the total number of students pay only 35 per cent of the university's overall annual budget which stands at JD. 17 million.

Samra pointed out that among the present students, 954 are

**GIFT TO COMOROS ISLANDS:** The Comoros Islands Ambassador to Egypt Abdulla Ibrahim Sunday arrived in Amman from Cairo. He is to take delivery of a consignment of medicines for his country as a gift from Jordan. (Petra)

**NMI TO HOLD BAZAAR:** The National Medical Institution (NMI) will Tuesday hold its annual charity bazaar at the Farah Royal Rehabilitation Centre. On display for three days are samples of embroidery, knit-wear, ceramics and artificial flowers.

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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## Splendid coordination

THE Parliament was of course right in calling for a thorough investigation of last week student clashes at Yarmouk University. And Prime minister Mudar Badran was also right in cooperating with the legislature to nip in the bud any sign of sectionalism in the country. This splendid coordination and cooperation between the two branches of the state is the finest hour yet in the history of parliamentary life in the Kingdom.

The symbolism of sectionalism in the country in fact occurred many times in the past including at various Jordanian campuses. Hitherto the policy has been to hush up the incidents and sweep them under the carpet. By such an approach the "problem" kept festering only to surface again and again with far reaching implications. The magnificent intervention by the Parliament this time shows that the days are gone when such serious threats to national unity and harmony could be swept under the carpet and the culprits, the real culprits, remain outside the rule of the law. As Prime Minister Badran has boldly and courageously, told the Parliament and the country Saturday, the strength of the country stems first and foremost from its internal cohesion and solidarity and any side that tampers with such unity and harmony will be dealt with in the severest way possible.

The first order of business therefore is to investigate the matter openly and then allow the country to debate the issue once and for all and last to bring to justice all those who take the law into their hands. It must be borne in mind that any person or group of persons who threaten the national unity of the country are simply playing with fire and executing the dreams and designs of the enemies of the Kingdom on top of which is of course Israel. Nothing pleases Israel more than to see Jordan, the oasis of peace, tranquility and moderation in the Middle East, torn apart by factionalism or sectionalism; and all those hands that promote such a division are simply playing into the hands of Israel and its agents. Accordingly, all those who precipitated in the Yarmouk student clashes must be identified, tried and severely punished. Otherwise the problem will keep on festering in the minds and hearts of some citizens and the country will end up paying the price of their ignominious deeds and short-sightedness.

Above all, the sober and responsible manner with which the Parliament has deliberated the issue of Yarmouk University vindicates the urgent call for fortifying parliamentary life in the country. The best proof of this is the fact that in the past such incidents were never given public airing. This time around, thank God, the problem is thoroughly debated, investigated and dealt with.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Sunday echoes King Hussein's expression of deep pride in Royal Jordanian as a leading national institution which has helped the country's tourism and carried the Kingdom's name all over the planet. The paper paid tribute to King Hussein for sharing with Royal Jordanian staff their celebration of the national airline's 26th anniversary and his praise of the staff's endeavours and creative work in service of the nation. The King's continued encouragement of national institutions to increase their efforts and do more for Jordan, will no doubt help boost the staff's morale and increase their encouragement and enthusiastic work, the paper noted. It said that the King's honouring of the members of the RJ staff displays the leader's concern and deep interest in the national institutions and their creative work and is considered a very important gesture that would prompt further successes. The paper congratulated the RJ staff on the anniversary, and expressed hope that the event would give incentive for further development and progress.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily praises the stand of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for expressing its total denunciation of an attack by unidentified elements on Syrian military positions in southern Lebanon. Mahmoud Rimawi says that the PLO's readiness to take part in investigation into the event reflects the organisation's awareness of the seriousness of the situation in Lebanon and its willingness to help defuse tension. Southern Lebanon, which has been exposed to various forms of conflicts should not be left to the whim of irresponsible elements that open the way for Israel's tampering of security and invites further Israeli aggression, the writer notes. He says that the Palestinians and the Syrians ought now to undertake very constructive and positive steps in dealing with the situation and so prevent any hostile elements from exploiting the regrettable incident. The relaxed political atmosphere which now prevails in the world should encompass the Arab region, and pave the way for a reconciliation between Syria and other Arab states and the PLO, since unity of ranks is the best and strongest weapon with which the Arabs can confront their common enemies, the writer concludes.

Al Dostour daily commented on the student clashes at Yarmouk University in the light of the Parliament debate over the issue on Saturday. The paper praised the stand of Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Parliament members who called for strict penalties to be imposed on the perpetrators and those behind the disturbances. It said that such attitude on the part of the legislative and executive authorities in Jordan is bound to put an end to any tampering with the national security and national unity in Jordan. By nipping the conspiracy against the nation in the bud, the paper said, the door will be closed for those elements that mean to cause harm to this country and its national unity.

## Weekly Political Pulse

# Will pluralism come to Moscow?

By Waleed Sadi

IN the light of the loss of the monopoly status that the Communist parties had enjoyed in Eastern Europe till the wind of change swept through it in the course of the last few months, one wonders why or for how long would Moscow reject pluralism within its political structure. That the Soviet Union has tolerated if not encouraged the introduction of multi-party political systems in so many of its allied countries within the Warsaw Pact is clear enough. The Kremlin could have put an end to the trend of abolishing the monopoly status of the Communist parties within its own backyard right from the start and that could have nipped the new phenomenon in the bud. Instead the Soviet authorities chose to turn a blind eye to the political events in Eastern Europe as they unfolded before their very eyes. Why then is Moscow denying itself what it is accepting for its closest allies?

Part of the answer could lie in the proposition that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev views the emergence of multi-party systems in so many of the East European countries as an experiment that needs to be guarded, pursued and analysed before he would consider duplicating it within his own country. There is no doubt that by at least tolerating the wide-spread political reforms in the East European countries, the Soviet leadership is signalling its sympathy and approval of these reformations. Once the experi-

ments in Eastern Europe have gone their course, consolidated their gains and fortified their existence, Moscow will follow suit as natural and logical as night follows day.

Over and above the intrinsic benefits of pluralism in Eastern Europe, it must have dawned on the Soviet Union that the willingness of the West to completely open up to the East Europeans and extend to them the kind of cooperation and assistance they ask for are timed on the willingness of Moscow to extend its perestroika all the way to reach the outer fringes or at least market economy and multi-party system. President George Bush and his aids have said so in so many words when they repeatedly called on the Soviet President to adopt contemporary economic policies that are in tune with international norms on trade and commerce. It goes without saying that the ultimate salvation of the ailing Soviet economy lies in the adoption of a market-oriented economy and the cessation of the centralised economic practices that have proved their futility over and over again. With the Soviet economy clearly in shambles and Soviet citizens complaints and anger at the state of their country's economy increasing, there is no way that Moscow can turn except to proven successful economic practices that can be found

only in market-oriented economy. Once Moscow turns to market economy and accepts more doses of free enterprise, the second logical follow-up development would be the ending of the monopoly that the Communist Party there still enjoys. One can see these developments coming as the grumbling within the Soviet Congress of deputies about the situation in the country increase.

Coming to think of it, it must be exasperating for Moscow to be seen left way behind the other Eastern European countries in the context of reformation instead of being a model for them when perestroika and glasnost were first introduced to the Soviet Union four years ago. By failing to be a show place for the rest of its allies, Moscow has suffered dearly. And obviously the most effective way to rectify the damage, that has already been done to its prestige and image, is to accelerate its own reformation in order to regain its position and status as a country on top of things instead of being at the bottom of events. That is an added reason why Moscow will have to shift gear very soon and accelerate the motion of reform that it has started on its own more than four years ago, and become once again the locomotive that is pulling the rest of the East European countries instead of remaining merely one of the wagons that are being pulled by countries such as Hungary, Poland and East Germany.

## Two Germanys take big strides towards close ties

By Neda Starcevic  
The Associated Press

WEST BERLIN — While Europe faces the prospect of German reunification in the future, the two states are expanding ties so quickly that some observers believe the process already is taking place.

The United States and the Soviet Union insist they must have a say in any moves to merge the two Germanys, but the daily rush of events may outrun their ability to control the process.

Not a day has passed in recent weeks without prominent Germans visiting each other across the formerly closed frontier or another series of agreements being signed.

The East Berlin government insists it will stop short of a formal union and says it wants to preserve the Socialist system. The West German government's position is that the East German people must be allowed to decide on reunification after free elections are held.

Intra-German cooperation ranges from large industrial projects to plans for single subway tickets for West Berlin and East Berlin, and completion of auto-bahn links severed in the postwar occupation of Germany.

For many countries, though, the wounds of Nazi leader Adolf Hitler's war are even now still too fresh to make the prospect of a united Germany a pleasing one.

The country would have 80 million people in the heart of Europe and economic power that would dwarf its neighbours. Some have voiced fears about an emerging "fourth Reich."

"Our neighbours are worried and their fears are justified," says West German political scientist Joachim Perels. "They are

worried that things are moving too fast."

Josef Janning, an expert on East-West relations at the University of Mainz, agrees that West Germany must consult with other countries on its policy towards East Germany to allay these concerns.

Now that the Germans are discovering their own national policy, there are justifications for fears. Bonn should not make any unilateral moves without consulting.

"But some sort of German unity cannot be prevented, not even the Germans can prevent it," he said in an interview.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl angered some other countries within the NATO alliance by proposing a 10-point plan for eventual German reunification without consulting Bonn's allies.

European leaders have passed resolutions that hardly hide their fears of a mighty German state dominating the continent. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has urged a go-slow approach to German reunification.

The Soviets, who have nearly 400,000 troops in East Germany, have issued stern warnings against Western interference in East German developments and have stated they oppose German reunification.

The leaders of the 12 nations in the European Economic Community have agreed that reunification must come through self-determination of the people in the two Germanys and in consultation with other European countries.

The European Parliament has urged West Germany to state "quickly and unambiguously" that, in the event of reunification, it would not try to incorporate

former eastern territories that were lost in the war and now belong to Poland and the Soviet Union.

In East Germany, meanwhile, demonstrations have become more nationalistic.

"Germany united fatherland," thousands of people have shouted at mass rallies held on the past four Mondays in Leipzig, the hotbed of the opposition movement that unleashed the recent democratic changes in what once used to be a rigid Communist country. Calls for quick reunification have been made at other rallies in the country.

At the last Leipzig rally, angry exchanges broke out between supporters and opponents of reunification. The opposition movement has said it fears a split in its ranks over the issue.

Free elections in East Germany have been set for May 6, 1990, and at least two opposition groups have spoken in favour of reunification.

While East Germany's Communist-dominated government officially opposes reunification, it has worked actively to expand ties with Bonn at all levels.

When holes began opening in the Berlin Wall, East Berlin and West Berlin police quickly established contact to deal with traffic problems and other mundane matters.

What began with such small steps has turned into giant strides one month later. Both sides seem to have dusted off contingency plans that have sat in bottom desk drawers for decades.

"What belongs together will grow together," former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt said, after the opening of the Berlin Wall, in a now often-quoted expression.

Kohl plans to travel to East

Germany on Tuesday, a trip that will undoubtedly add impetus to trade ties between the two states.

Volkswagen, West Germany's biggest auto maker, has signed an agreement to cooperate in developing a new generation of East German Trabant cars. Dresdner Bank, the second-largest bank in West Germany, is considering opening branches in East Germany.

West German Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann returned Friday from talks in East Berlin that resulted in an agreement to set up a joint economic commission to expand cooperation.

Bonn has promised 1 billion

marks (\$580 million) for a project to clean up East Germany's badly polluted environment.

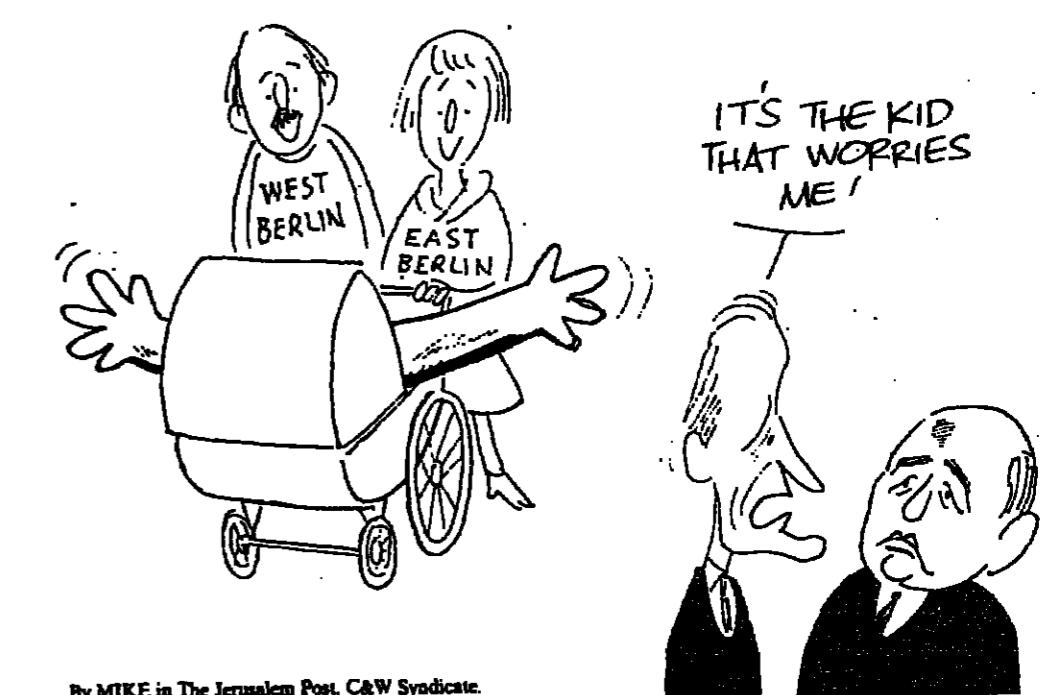
Lufthansa and Interflug, the two flag carriers, are adding new flights between the two countries nearly every week.

In a once unthinkable move, Lufthansa joined with Interflug in placing a full-page advertisement last week in Neues Deutschland, the Communist party newspaper.

A fast rail link between Berlin, located 160 kilometres inside East Germany, and Hannover in West Germany is under consideration. A daily bus connection between Rostock in East Germany and Kiel in West Germany started this week.

Starting Jan. 1, West Germans will no longer need visas to visit East Germany.

IT'S THE KID THAT WORRIES ME!



## In a decade of change, Gorbachev was the catalyst

By Robert Evans  
Reuter

MOSCOW — "To change society," Mikhail Gorbachev told a critical audience of Soviet students as 1989 drew to a close, "we have to change ourselves."

And the former farm boy from southern Russia remained for many of his fellow countrymen what a commentator in the Moscow press he himself unnnamed called the "the Gorbachev enigma."

Where did his reforming urge come from? Was it just a response to recognition that the Soviet Union had stagnated while the outside world surged into a new technological age?

Was he still, as he himself once put it, a "product of our common past" aiming above all to keep the Communist Party in power within a framework of apparent democracy?

While asserting total commitment to the Communist ideal, he joined his own vast country out of the Stalinist thrall and set it on the road to something like social democracy.

His renunciation of any Kremlin right to dictate its will outside Soviet borders helped bring, in the last months of the 1980s, disintegration of the "old regime" in Eastern Europe.

He travelled to China in May 1989 to put a formal end to the "great schism" that had once brought the two Communist superpowers to the brink of all-out conflict.

His rejection of the "class war" view of inter-state relations cleared the way for a stable concordat with the United States ending 45 years of bitter great-rivalry.

Meeting in Malta in December, Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush agreed the cold war could be consigned to history and predicted a new era of East-West cooperation.

On his way to the summit, the leader of the party that long proclaimed religion the opium of the people also made his peace with the Pope, and the Catholic church, in Rome.

Yet at home his uncertain popularity looked increasingly shaky as his "perestroika" or restructuring of society seemed incapable of satisfying basic consumer demands.

Nikolai, in an interview with the U.S.-financed Radio Liberty, said Mrs. Gorbachev as a Moscow university lecturer in the early 1980s mixed with a school of "new thinkers" there.

Many of these intellectuals, most still convinced Marxists despite their disgust with Brezhnev's "real Socialism," were later drawn into the new leader's entourage, Nikolai said.

Dev Murarka, an Indian journalist writing on the Soviet scene from Moscow for 25 years and author of one of the first Gorbachev biographies to appear in the West, agrees.

"I am absolutely sure that Raisa has been a tremendous influence on him, and for the good," Murarka says.

Gorbachev himself admits he had little concept of the depths to which the Soviet Union had sunk economically and in social services where it long boasted it led the world.

"The outward appearance of well-being was achieved at the cost of consuming the country's natural wealth to the detriment of future generations," he declared in November.

And in one of the frank admissions of Soviet failure that increasingly marked the style of his rule, he told his student audience the West moved into the new era of high technology, he said.

Yet the realisation clearly came to him only slowly. "At first it seemed to us all we needed to do was improve something here and make something else more perfect there.

"Today we have come to the

firm conclusion that we must reform everything fundamentally and ensure deep-going changes in the very basic of our society," he said.

The radicals, to whom he gave political voice through his destruction of the old tame participation and creation of a new one with teeth, at first revered him.

But as the stunned conservatives and party apparatchiki regrouped to present a serious force, his centrist position alarmed his supporters on the Soviet left.

"He ticks back and forth and doesn't seem to want to take any real decisions — that's why we've got nowhere with the economy," says poet and novelist Valdimir Kozlov.

"We no longer see the decisiveness and sense of purpose that he had in the beginning. The people around him seem to be stopping him, develop," says Yury Soschik, a young radical deputy to the new parliament and veteran of the Afghan war.

But the hardliners still strong in the party saw another danger in the dilution of old-style Communist dogma and in the reduction of their own power under his reforms.

"On his return from Malta in December, they launched a bitter attack on 'perestroika' at home and abroad at a key Kremlin meeting, calling for a return to the 'true path.'

Gorbachev, the supreme political tactician, countered with an offer to step down. The conservatives, with no real policies or leader of their own to offer, retreated.

Did Gorbachev foresee that what he began in the Soviet Union would blast through Eastern Europe with such force that even cautious foreign observers could conclude with total conviction that they were seeing the end of Communism?</



In Xiba minority group, the Moso men are allowed to meet their wives only after night falls. During the day, they stay with their mothers

## An unwritten marriage code

By Xu Yike

A VOLCANIC lightning coupled with peals of thunder dims two young lovers out of their dreadful dreams. Bewildered and desperate, they dash amidst the wailing wind towards the shimmering sun.

The setting sun and evil wind, both symbolic of bad luck in the unwritten marriage code of the Chinese Wa ethnic group populated in the west of south China's Yunnan province, signify that their love, no matter how deep-rooted it is, will not lead to marriage.

In his effort to defy the evil that just terminated his love, the spot-in young man whisks, tumbles and splits until he tires out, while in the background the light dims as the girl swings her waist-long hair as if cursing the diviner.

The audience found tears well up from their eyes long before the curtain falls.

The 10-act musical presented by the Yunnan Song and Dance Ensemble to mark the Second Chinese Arts Festival that ran from September 25 to October 5 in Beijing dramatizes both legend-and-facts-based kaleidoscopic marriage folklores of 10 minority nationalities of the province.

Yunnan province, where 25 minority groups live, is known as a living museum of folklores, among which varied marriage forms stand out.

One of the legends goes that through the Wa people enjoy freedom of love and marriage today as in the old days, young people in love have to have their fate determined through a diviner and dream interpretation before they get married.

The rising sun, the singing birds or the rippling streams, for example, in the dreams conceived during combination of lovers without physical contact will bring the two separate hearts together.

The 90-minute-long musical, performed by over 40 dancers and singers of 16 minority nationalities of the ensemble, also spells out the evolution of human marriage through the expressions of various forms of matrimony.

It starts with an age-old legend. Centuries ago, a big flood devastated the earth, claiming the lives of all living creatures except a girl and her brother, who escaped the disaster in a gourd and later gave birth to their offspring, thus sowing the seeds of their love in the soil of their land.

On the stage, the silhouetted girl and her brother set in the cut-out gourd dancing with the seas first struggled for life and then as the tide receded they fell

in blind love and felt hungry for sexual existence.

Love may be a sweet experience, but to trace back to the stories behind it and to gracefully visualize it on stage is a bitter one, according to Xu Yan, the playwright.

Though the beating-up has lost its original revengeful intention, the practice remains.

"It represents more an amusement than a punishment," Xu said.

In their effort to best demonstrate the different marriage customs of the selected 10 ethnic groups which are more socially accepted, the choreographers have fused singing, religious music, group dances, pas de deux and solos into a brilliant spectacle with both traditional and modern colors, according to Feng Shuangbei, a professor with the dance institute.

The group dances are typical of local flavors, he said, citing that the girls and boys in colorful native costumes dance to the folk music in a festive atmosphere.

The pas de deux, on the other hand, he said, gives a clear evidence that the choreographers used ballet techniques when the dancers jump as light as feathers and twist in intimate moves, which conjure up in the audience subtle images of loving pratiques and romances.

Xu led his ensemble to the villages where ethnic groups live to pool sources of folk dances. They rehearsed on the spot and presented them to the locals before bringing them on the triumphant tour to Beijing late last September.

Very bit of details of the local marriage customs the choreographer got would find its proof in the historical records, according to Zhou Peiwu, the chief choreographer.

"We would check with historians and folklore experts to straighten out what we heard," he said.

They heard that in some villages of the Moso branch of the Naxi minority near the Lugu Lake in the southwest of the province, married people still stay with their mothers during the day. Only after night falls do they go to live with their spouses.

They did not believe the story until they had eye-witnesses or proofs from folklore experts.

While some parts of the musical present the sad side of the local marriages, the hilarious atmosphere predominate most of the scenes, according to Zhou.

In some Lisu minority villages, for example, a bride is to be "thrown" to her groom by her relatives. While carrying the bride, the groom has to walk among the bottles scattered on the ground without knocking them down. Otherwise, he is to be punished.

The groom with the bride in his arms, cautiously picking his way with dancing steps on the bottle-dotted stage and surrounded by a group of naughty girls is really giving the audience a good laugh, commented Fu Zhaoxian, a dancing critic with the China Dance Research Institute.

More exciting than watching the groom dancing with bride in the arm is the scene of beating up the grooms as practiced by Hani minority.

As women-dominated society is being replaced by patriarchal society in Hani ethnic group,



In the villages of Lisu ethnic group, a bride is to be "thrown" to her groom by her relatives

## Humanisation of skin diseases

Dr. Oumeish Youssef Oumeish is the President of The Jordanian Dermatological & Venereological Society.

By Dr. Oumeish Y. Oumeish

THERE ARE at least three billion people in 127 developing countries who are deprived of basic care for their skin diseases.

Skin diseases cause major functional disability and disfigurement.

If they are left untreated, the victim is prevented from reaching his or her potential and instead becomes a severe emotional and economic burden on both the family and the community.

In many rural communities around the world, more than 80 per cent of the children are affected with skin infections. Skin diseases are a major public health problem in all developing countries and among the five commonest causes of morbidity and loss of manpower in rural areas.

Also it is sad to know that the majority of the world population has no access to essential dermatologic drugs, and only about 35 African countries have dermatologists.

There is, however, an optimistic message and that is: With proper diagnosis and appropriate management, the consequences

for future centres world-wide.

It is important to develop a cadre of experienced dermatovenereologists willing to serve on a short or long term basis on visiting teachers, lecturers, advisors, or practitioners.

Collaborative programmes between institutions from developed and developing countries of the world should also be encouraged.

In addition we should assist in the development of model lists of essential dermatologic therapeutic agents for all health care levels.

It is also important to strengthen research that is oriented to the dermatologic priority needs in developing countries.

Promotion of medical services, training of doctors and paramedical staff, and education of people about these diseases will definitely improve the dermatologic health in developing countries. Also, by emphasising the delivery of primary dermatological care to these regions of the world of greatest need, will assist in prevention, cure and rehabilitation.

The creation of regional dermatological research and training centres like a pan-Arab Centre, is a priority to respond to the needs of developing countries in this field of health care.

Through these centres, a broad spectrum of education, prevention, and care can be conducted in an efficient, cost-effective, and humanitarian manner. Both the public and health care personnel at all levels of need will be trained, patient services will be promoted, and research will be carried out to establish models

around World War II, dermatology was one of the medical specialties that took the greatest advantage of the huge increase in knowledge in all fields, as a consequence several subspecialties have emerged. New techniques have been introduced to study congenital skin diseases in vivo i.e.; to take foetal skin sample from the foetus inside the uterus in the early stage of pregnancy and make the diagnosis.

Humanisation and education about the skin diseases are essential to understand these diseases and help millions of patients all around the world.

In Jordan there are almost 120 specialists in the field of dermatology and venereology i.e.; sexually transmitted diseases, with an overall percentage of one specialist to every 25,000 population, and the ideal ratio is one to 10,000.

The Jordanian Dermatological and Venereological Society was established in affiliation with the Jordan Medical Association with the aim of organising the specialty of dermatology and venereology, to promote and update this science, to keep its standard and ethics, and to educate both general practitioners and patients.

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## Hanoi not to accept 'forced returnees'

BANGKOK (AP) — Vietnam has told Britain that it rejects any forced repatriation of boat people from Hong Kong and reserves the right to send them back to the British colony, official Vietnamese media reported.

In London, about 150 Vietnamese refugees demonstrated Saturday in Trafalgar Square to demand an end to the forcible repatriation.

The refugees released 51 black balloons, one for each Vietnamese sent back to Hanoi Tuesday, and hundreds of yellow balloons for the 57,000 Vietnamese still in Hong Kong.

Vietnam accepted the group of 51, but the official media said Hanoi's policy is to reject forced repatriation.

The Vietnam News Agency (VNA) said a Foreign Ministry official handed a note to British Ambassador Emrys Davies strongly affirming Hanoi's policy of "only accepting those who volunteer to return or who are not opposed to the repatriation."

The report said the ministry cautioned Davies that "any violation of these principles may hamper and even completely disrupt the process of cooperation to resolve this problem step by step" as agreed at a June multilateral conference on Indochinese refugees.

Ministry officials stressed that if Vietnam discovers any case of "forced repatriation," it reserves the right to return them to Hong Kong."

A spokesman for Britain's Foreign Office in London said the Vietnamese message did not represent a change in that country's position and that there would be released Jan. 20.

The Rev. Michael Meadows of Weymouth, who worked in the former South Vietnamese capital of Saigon, told protesters, "Our government ought not to be too gullible in accepting assurances from the government of Hanoi that these people will be properly treated on their return."

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Mail bomb kills U.S. judge

MOUNTAIN BROOK, Alabama (AP) — A federal appeals judge was killed and his wife seriously injured by a mail bomb that went off at their home Saturday afternoon, authorities said. Eleventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Robert S. Vance, 58, died instantly when a package delivered to his home went off around 3 p.m., Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) spokesman Chuck Steinmetz said in Washington. It was believed to be only the third time this century a U.S. federal judge had been assassinated.

#### Actor Lee van Cleef dies

OXNARD, California (AP) — Actor Lee van Cleef, whose steely eyes and hawklike features won him a long career portraying villains in western movies, has died of an apparent heart attack, authorities said. He was 64. Van Cleef's film break came when he was cast as one of four desperadoes faced down by Gary Cooper in the 1952 movie "High Noon." He became a familiar gunfighter in so-called spaghetti westerns made by Italian director Sergio Leone, including "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly." Among his hundreds of black-hat roles were parts in "How the West was Won," "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance" and "Death Rides a Horse." Van Cleef collapsed at his Oxnard home Friday night, said Craig Stevens, a Ventura County deputy coroner. The coastal community is north of Los Angeles.

#### Bloch's FBI tail is off

WASHINGTON (AP) — Felix S. Bloch, the American diplomat suspected of spying for the Soviets, said Saturday it appears he no longer has Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents trailing his every move. "It was strange," said Bloch, a 30-year State Department veteran who came under FBI surveillance last spring, but has never been charged with any wrongdoing. "It was as if they left from one minute to the next." FBI spokesman Charles Steinmetz acknowledged there may have been some visual changes but the investigation was continuing. "We may have cut back, but we're still investigating," he said Saturday. "I have no comments beyond that. But it is an active investigation." Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Times in Saturday's editions cited sources as saying the FBI has failed to find solid evidence to support espionage charges against Bloch and has all but abandoned hopes of prosecuting him.

#### Marijuana link among tumour patients

CLEARWATER, Florida (AP) — Marijuana smoking was the common link among a number of otherwise healthy young people who developed large, fast-growing cancerous tumours of the mouth and neck, two doctors have reported. "This was a rather shocking finding," said Dr. Paul Donald, a head and neck surgeon at the University of California-Davis, who noticed the link in nine of his patients. The patients included one man with a tumour bulging from his mouth to his chin, a woman with a tumour under her tongue and a man with a huge mass on the side of his neck, Donald told a meeting of immunologists in Clearwater.

#### Chile celebrations leave one dead

SANTIAGO (AP) — One person died, dozens were injured and hundreds arrested when jubilant street celebrations of the opposition victory in this week's presidential election turned violent Saturday, police said. One woman was killed during demonstrations in Temuco, a city 870 kilometres south of Santiago. Police did not say how the woman died, but the official election agency ORBE said she was killed when demonstrators altered the public order damaging public properties, and forced police to act. Thousands of supporters of opposition leader Patricio Aylwin took to the streets to celebrate his victory in the presidential election Thursday. Police said 589 demonstrators were arrested in Santiago alone.

#### Volcano spews ash and grit

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, (R) — The Redoubt volcano in Alaska erupted again Saturday, spewing out ash for hundreds of kilometres and residents of Anchorage were told to remain indoors to avoid breathing problems. U.S. government scientists said the 3,100 metre volcano erupted at about 6:00 a.m. Alaska standard time (1500 GMT) in what is believed to be its fifth explosion since Thursday morning when it burst into activity for the first time in 21 years. The 220,000 residents of Anchorage, 160 kilometres northeast of the mountain, were told to remain indoors to avoid respiratory problems, as a dusting of the sandy ash fell on cars parked outside in the snow. Most flights in and out of the busy Anchorage international airport were cancelled because of fears aircraft engines would suck in the grit, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration said.

#### Medellin cartel baron buried

BOGOTA (R) — Colombian drug baron Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, who rose from poverty to the number two man in the world's most powerful drug organisation, was buried Saturday in a common grave with his teenage son and five bodyguards, all killed in a gunbattle with police. Rodriguez Gacha, 42, his son and his bodyguards were shot dead Friday after resisting arrest by hurling grenades and spraying machine-guns fire when cornered near Tolu on the Caribbean coast. They were buried in a hastily-dug common grave in the municipal cemetery in the nearby state capital of Sincelejo without relatives present, television footage showed.

no change in British policy. Britain argues most Vietnamese confined to squalid Hong Kong camps are not political refugees but illegal migrants seeking a better life.

Vietnamese refugees and their supporters in London stood silently in the rain for one minute to remember those who lived and died for freedom. It was the first of a series of rallies planned around the country by the Vietnam Refugee National Council.

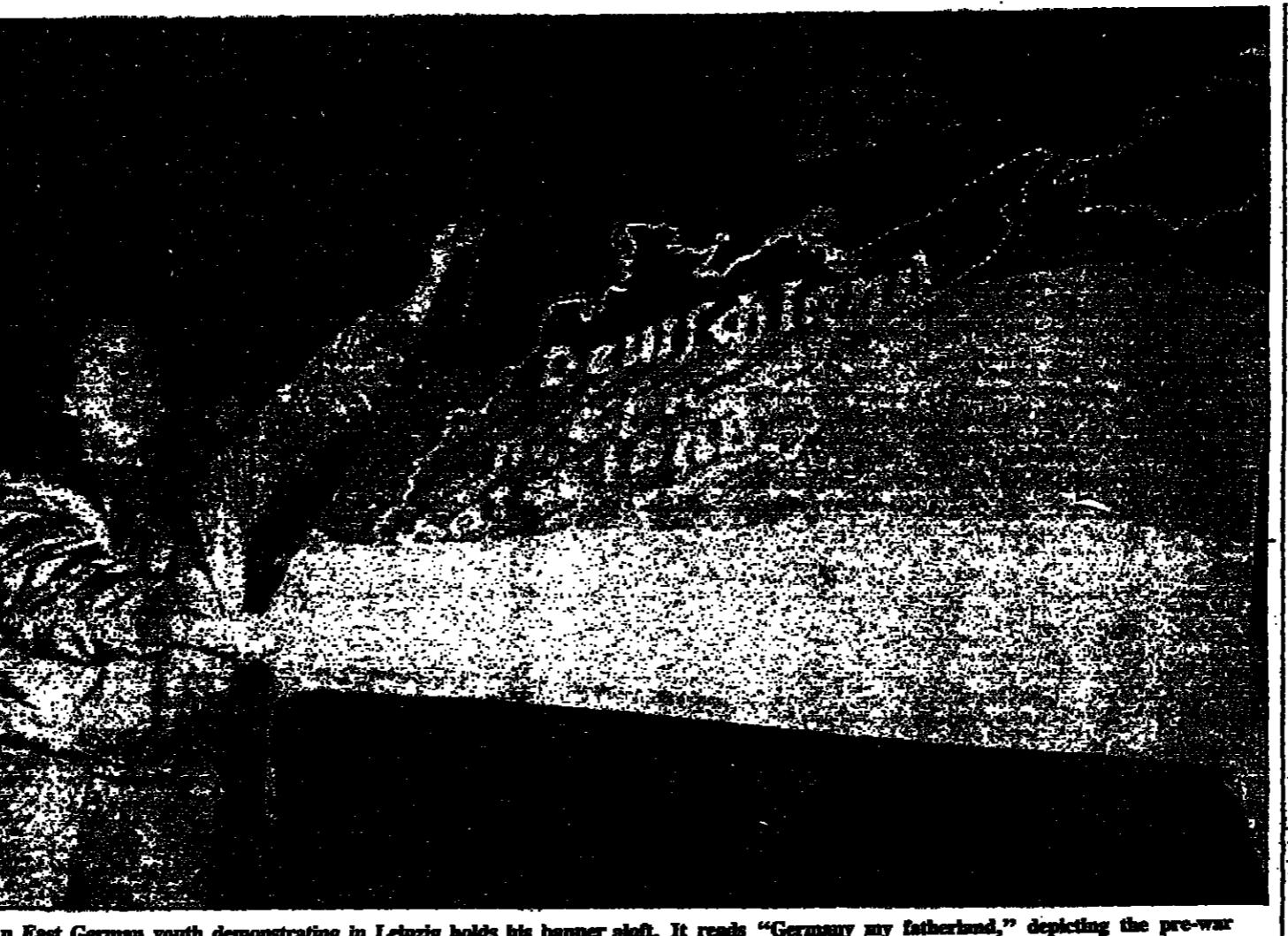
Protesters sang the Vietnamese national anthem used before the Communists seized power in 1975.

"We hope the British government will give freedom for the Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong," said council chairman Diep Pham, who fled Vietnam by boat to Singapore in 1983 and arrived in England later that year.

"Repatriation is evil," guitarist Steve Hackett of the rock group Genesis told the crowd. "We urge the Hong Kong government to dismantle the fences and the compounds."

Hackett has organised musicians called Rock against Repatriation. They are making a recording of the Rod Stewart hit song "Sailing" with proceeds to alleviate conditions of the refugees in Hong Kong. It is to be released Jan. 20.

The Rev. Michael Meadows of Weymouth, who worked in the former South Vietnamese capital of Saigon, told protesters, "Our government ought not to be too gullible in accepting assurances from the government of Hanoi that these people will be properly treated on their return."



An East German youth demonstrating in Leipzig holds his banner aloft. It reads "Germany my fatherland," depicting the pre-war borders

## Gysi sees possible catastrophe in unification of two Germanys

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) —

East German Communist Party leader Gregor Gysi said on Sunday those calling for union with West Germany were playing with fire and could endanger peace.

In an address to an emergency party congress, Gysi mapped out the Communist movement's vision of reforms that would include a new constitution, economic changes, a cut in military forces and greater autonomy for local regions.

"Those searching a special German route to unification outside the framework of European unity are playing, consciously or unconsciously, with fire. Greater Germany would be a victory for the right," he said.

Gysi, elected party chief a

week ago, said those in the West and in East Germany demanding unification would not be satisfied with that if they got it.

They would then want those German territories relinquished after World War II and now part of Poland and the Soviet Union, he said. There have been increasing calls in recent weeks for the two German states to merge in some form.

"If the border between the two German states falls before Europe is unified then a discussion will break out about border changes," Gysi told the 2,600 delegates at the congress in the Dynamo Sports Hall on the outskirts of East Berlin.

"Peace would be seriously endangered and once again it would

have been the Germans who caused a new European conflict," he added to thunderous applause.

#### Opinion poll

More than two-thirds of East Germans questioned in a poll said they oppose German reunification, the weekly news magazine Der Spiegel reported.

The poll, conducted by two respected West German public opinion research organisations, queried 1,032 East Germans of voting age in early December about their political views.

Some 71 per cent of respondents said they opposed building a common German state, the question asked in the poll commissioned by Der Spiegel and

ZDF Television network.

Spiegel reported in its latest edition that only 27 per cent of respondents said they supported reunification.

The magazine did not specify the poll's margin of error or provide other polling details.

Asked who they would vote for in the first free elections in East Germany, set for May 6, 1990, about half the respondents said they were not sure yet, Spiegel said.

Another 12 per cent said they support the Communists, seven per cent said they would vote for the newly formed opposition Social Democratic Party and five per cent said they were behind Neues Forum, the largest pro-reform movement.

## Aquino orders trial of putsch leaders

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Corazon Aquino Sunday ordered the immediate trial of leaders of this month's failed coup, branding them traitors who were paid "thirty pieces of silver" to bring her down.

Aquino, speaking on pre-recorded a radio programme, urged civilians to come forward with information that could help prosecute leaders of the Dec. 1-7 army revolt, in which more than 100 people were killed and at least 50 wounded.

"I order General (Renato) de Villa to immediately investigate their top leaders," she said. "I also order military courts to hold a continuous trial and I ask the people to attend the proceedings."

De Villa, the country's armed forces chief, said the military has captured 1,800 of about 3,000 mutineers who took part in the coup attempt, the sixth and bloodiest since Aquino came to power in 1986.

Aquino vowed to show no mercy to the mutineers' leaders.

"Why did the rebel troops do that contemptible act? They did it... for thirty pieces of silver," she said. "For the leaders of these rebel troops... our policy is to show them no mercy."

Aquino did not say who allegedly paid the coup leaders.

The military has said unnamed financiers paid some of the rebel officers 25 million pesos (\$1.3 million) to mutiny.

The president said the coup attempt was backed by politicians who "knew they had no chance in an election." She did not identify them but last week she hinted her estranged Vice-President Salvador Laurel and Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, a former defence chief, were involved. Both have denied it.

Government troops moved into position around Manila and the southern city of Davao during the weekend to stop possible new attacks by army rebels.

## Column 10

### Mall apologises to black Santa

LANDOVER HILLS, Maryland (AP) — A shopping centre is asking a black Santa Claus to return, issuing a public apology to the man who quit last week because he said the Mall objected to his skin colour. Derrick L. Trice walked off the job Tuesday, claiming he wouldn't return unless he received such an apology.

Trice, 21, said he confronted the Mall's managers after a Mall security guard came by his post to ask, "How long the black Santa would be around." He said he was shown the door after an argument with Mall manager Thomas A. Breece. Officials at the Mall said the incident came about after customers — both black and white — complained about the black Santa. Trice was asked to leave the Mall office because he was very upset, according to the Mall's public statement issued Friday. The Mall "in no way intended to convey the message that Mr. Trice's services were not welcome or that he was not welcome to return to his position as Santa Claus," said the statement issued by Breece.

"If Mr. Trice received this impression, the Mall regrets that and extends its apology to Mr. Trice." The Capital Plaza Mall continues to believe that it is appropriate to have Santa of all races. The Mall sincerely hopes that Mr. Trice will return and continue to serve its customers.

### 'Miracle' liquid is blood

NAPLES, Italy (R) — Scientists said Saturday their tests had confirmed that a substance venerated in Naples as a relic of the city's patron saint is blood. The congealed substance, which Neapolitans believe is the blood of fourth century martyr St. Januarius, had been in two small phials in the church of Santa Chiara. It liquefies two or three times a year after prayers in the church. Neapolitans say this has happened for the past 600 years and they believe that if the miracle fails to occur a disaster could strike the city. "There is no doubt that the liquid is blood," said Pierluigi Ballone, a Tumisano university scientist heading a team which was able to study the substance without removing it from the phials. However, Ballone told a news conference the scientist could not explain why the substance liquefied regularly.

### News of the '80s

NEW YORK (AP) — Mikhail S. Gorbachev and the thawing of the cold war were voted the story of the 1980s by editors and news directors of U.S. newspapers and broadcast members of the Associated Press. The American editor said other stories in the decade's top 10 were, in descending order.

Japanese Transport Ministry officials said Japan allowed the plane to land because the captain said he had only 40 minutes worth of fuel.

The Chinese embassy in Tokyo said it had contacted the Japanese Foreign Ministry to demand that the hijackers and the plane immediately be returned to China.

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Eighteen of the 22 white mercenaries who relinquished power in the Comoro Islands Friday to French forces have left South Africa for Europe, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said Sunday.

The spokeswoman declined to state the destination of the soldiers of fortune, who took control of the Indian Ocean islands after the assassination of President Ahmad Abdallah in mysterious circumstances Nov. 26.

Mercenary leader Bob Denard was one of the four remaining in South Africa, pending the outcome of negotiations on his future, the spokeswoman added. "We anticipate all of the remaining four will be leaving South Africa soon," she said.

Denard and his men flew to Johannesburg Friday as pressure mounted on them to leave the Comoros amid accusations that they were involved in Abdallah's murder.

Pretoria's Foreign Minister P. Botha immediately declared that the 22 mercenaries were unwelcome and said they would leave for other countries as quickly as possible.

French police detained six of the mercenaries as they arrived Sunday at Orly Airport from South Africa.

The six, five Frenchmen and a Belgian, will be held until investigators determine whether they are wanted for any crimes, a spokeswoman for the air and border police said.

### Global weather (major world cities)

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
AMSTERDAM	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
ATHENS	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BANGKOK	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Buenos Aires	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
CARDO	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
CHICAGO	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
COPENHAGEN	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
FRANKFURT	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
GENEVA	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
HONG KONG	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
ISTANBUL	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
LONDON	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
LOS ANGELES	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
MADRID	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
MONTRÉAL	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
NEW YORK	27						